GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2080
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2017
Survey by NSSO
Mahajan Smt. Poonam

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sample surveys undertaken by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) are conducted through contractual staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of employees hired on a contractual basis and the reasons for hiring them;

(c) whether it is a fact that sample surveys conducted by contractual staff has affected the quality of data collected by them; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken to minimize the margin of error in data collection?

Answer

MINISTER FOR STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION [SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA]

(a) and (b): The sample surveys undertaken by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) are conducted primarily through its regular staff. Contractual staff are engaged against the shortage of regular staff (i.e. vacancy against sanctioned post of regular staff) and requirement of manpower for ad-hoc surveys undertaken in addition to regular surveys of NSSO. Scheme-wise details of contractual staff engaged for data collection in the on-going surveys are mentioned in the statement given at Annexure.

(c) and (d): To ensure that quality of data/survey is not adversely affected by engagement of the contractual manpower, field investigators having required qualification/experience are engaged for the surveys. Further, these Field Investigators are given extensive training both theoretical as well as practical in local languages before deployment to collect data. There is also a system of inspection/supervision and scrutiny of data by senior officers to check and ensure the quality of data and monitor the working of Field Investigators during data collection.